

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Geologic Investigation of the Turlock Lake Formation at Millerton Lake State Recreation Area

CEC-16-050

Prepared by:


Stacy L. Holt
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

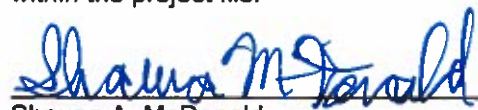
Date: 01/20/2017

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the project file.


Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:


Shauna A. McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

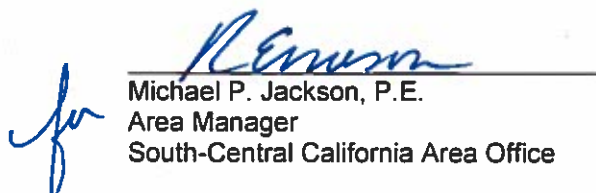
Date: 01/20/17

Concurred by:


Rain L. Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office
ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Date: 02/03/2017

Approved by:


for Michael P. Jackson, P.E.
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 02/03/2017



Background

The Millerton Lake State Recreation Area (Millerton SRA) is Federal land that surrounds Millerton Lake which is operated and maintained by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). A part of the Turlock Lake Formation is located within the boundaries of Millerton, it is typically covered by Millerton Lake. The current drought conditions in California has exposed the Turlock Lake Formation, at the north side of Millerton SRA. Geologic samples from the exposed unit will provide more understanding of the Turlock Lake Formation resulting in an updated geologic map and description of the area. This area has never been geologically mapped due to the presence of Millerton Lake.

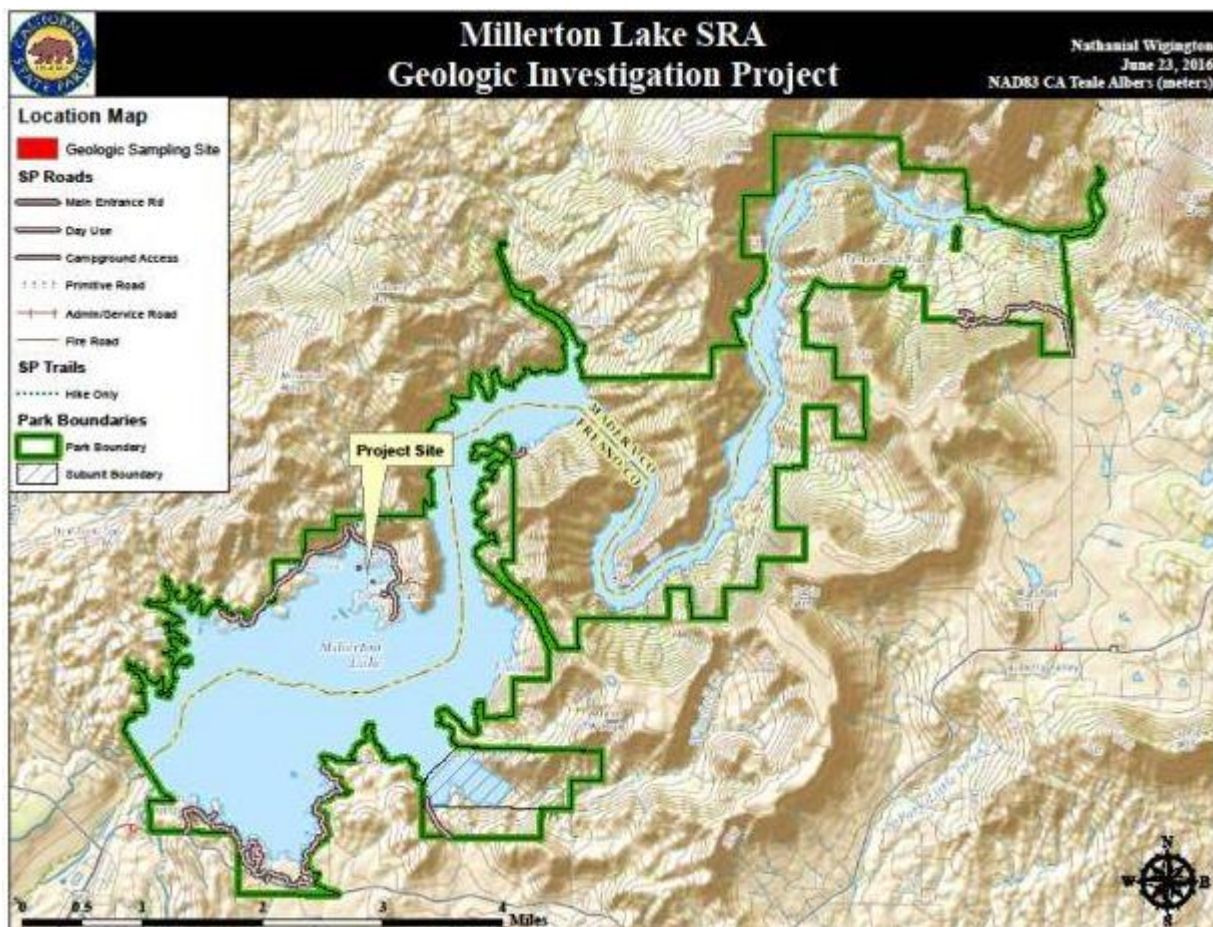


Figure 1. General location of the project in relation to Millerton Lake State Recreation Area.

Nature of the Action

CDPR - Millerton will issue entry permits to California State University, Fresno personnel on Reclamation's behalf according to Article 27(a) of Management Agreement, Contract No. 12-LC-20-0152.

Two people from California State University Fresno will collect and analyze the samples. The collection process is expected to take one day. The following actions will be performed to collect samples.

- Drilling no more than ten 1-inch diameter samples, using a cordless drill, with a coring bit that is approximately 1-inch long at an elevation of 535 feet.
- Using a rock hammer to fill the drilled holes with sediment to remove any evidence of holes, meeting CDPR requirements.
- Using a hand held posthole digger to dig one 2-foot deep, 10-inch diameter hole to investigate the location of volcanic ash at 535 feet.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 B (3). *Data collection studies that involve test excavations for cultural resources investigations or test pitting, drilling, or seismic investigations for geologic exploration purposes where impacts will be localized.*

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (e)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01) (43 CFR 46.215 (g)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species (43 CFR 46.215 (h)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. This action would violate a Federal, tribal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. This action would limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007, 43 CFR 46.215 (k), and 512 DM 3)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act, EO 13112, and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion

The Proposed Action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The Action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-SCAO-072

Project Name: Geologic Investigation of the Turlock Lake Formation at Millerton Lake State Recreation Area

NEPA Document: SCAO-CEC- 16-050

NEPA Contact: Stacy Holt, Natural Resources Specialist

MP-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Gary Scholze, Archaeologist

Date: January 20, 2017



Reclamation proposes to accept California Department of Parks and Recreation–Millerton to issue permits to California State University, Fresno personnel on Reclamation’s behalf according to Article 27(a) of Management Agreement, Contract No. 12-LC-20-0152. Two people from California State University Fresno will collect and analyze the samples from the exposed Turlock Lake Geologica Formation at the north side of Millerton State Recreation Area. Geologic samples from the exposed unit will provide more understanding of the Turlock Lake Formation resulting in an updated geologic map and description of the area. This area has never been geologically mapped due to the presence of Millerton Lake. The collection process is expected to take one day and will consist of drilling ten 1-inch diameter coring samples and one 10-inch diameter hole to investigate the location of volcanic ash at the 535 foot elevation. No construction activities or modification of existing facilities would occur at part of the Proposed action.

Reclamation determined that the proposed action is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Based on analysis of the project activities, I concur with Item 8 in the CEC that the proposed action for this project would have no significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

This document conveys the completion of the cultural resources review and NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. The proposed action would have no impacts on cultural resources. Please retain a copy of this document with the administrative record for the proposed action. Should the proposed action change, additional review under Section 106, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be required.